23rd February 1955]

Medical aid under N.E.S. Scheme

* 861 *Q.*—SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount allotted for medical aid in Malabar under National Extension Service Scheme in 1954; and

(*b*) the amount actually spent under this head so far?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (*a*) A sum of Rs. 3,570 under ' Public Health ' has been provided in the Budget for 1954–55 for each of the two blocks, Tellicherry and Payyanur. This provision is intended to meet all expenditure coming under ' Public Health ' and not ' Medical aid ' alone.

" (*b*) No amount has been spent so far."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR:—" As medical aid is the most acute need of the people, will the Government give top priority to medical aid under the National Extension Service Scheme? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" That will be done subject to availability of funds."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN:—" In the Payyanur and Madayi blocks under the National Extension Service Scheme, there is only one hospital. It gets only three thousand rupees per annum and there is no medicine at all there. Will the Government see that that hospital is supplied with adequate medicines and equipment and also open a mobile hospital for the area? Only if this is done, the people will feel that they get some benefit from the National Extension Service Scheme."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" I have already stated that the Government will consider this suggestion subject to availability of funds."

SRI M. P. SUBRAMANYAM:—" As the medical facilities now available in rural areas are very meagre and as the Government want to concentrate on development on all sides including medical and public health, will the Government be pleased to provide one mobile medical unit in every National Extension Service Block? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" Taking up an area under the National Extension Service Scheme does not mean that it should be deprived of the normal allotment of funds under Medical, Public Health and other items."

Personal clerks to Secretaries to Government

* 862 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Secretaries to Government have ladies as personal clerks; and

[23rd February 1955

(*b*) whether any instructions have been issued by the Government that ladies should be appointed to such posts?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) One.

" (*b*) No."

Supply of electricity to Badagara

* 863 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the rank in the list of priorities for extension of rural electric supply to the Cannanore-Badagara line?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The scheme for extension of supply of electricity from Cannanore to Badagara, Quilandy, etc., villages in Malabar district is being taken up for execution now."

Railway line connecting Tiruvannamalai and Merkanam

* 864 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the State Government has recommended or proposes to recommend to the Central Government the formation of a railway line connecting Tiruvannamalai and Merkanam?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No, Sir."

Free treatment to lepers

* 865 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state why the practice of providing weekly free treatment to lepers in Pudukkottai Government Hospital and dispensaries followed by the pre-merger Pudukkottai State Government has been abandoned by the Madras Government?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Leprosy patients coming to Government medical institutions in the Pudukkottai Division are even now treated as out-patients and given injections biweekly free of charges, as is being done in any other medical institution outside the division. Only the practice of giving the sum of annas four to each such patient on injection days has been stopped."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Why has this payment of four annas been stopped, since that provided an inducement to lepers to come to the hospitals? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no provision for making such payment in any other hospital."